

BLouses SO POPULAR MAKERS CAN HARDLY MEET DEMAND

Very Smart They Are in Their Exquisite Simplicity Set Off by Picturesque Collars and Capes

By ELEANOR HOYT BRAINER.

THE manufacturers of blouses have had their troubles this season, and the labor unions are not responsible for all of these troubles. With triumphant success perching upon their shoulders and emphatic endorsement of their original lines coming in the form of incessant reorders, the blouse makers find themselves handicapped by the impossibility of obtaining more of their most successful materials. They can turn out blouses, enormous quantities of them, and they are doing it; but they cannot duplicate all of their favorite models, and they cannot secure materials for others as charming.

This is especially true of the tub silk and crepe de chine blouses, and even in the retail shops one begins to notice a scarcity of the best simple models in these materials. But the lingerie blouses are surging to the front with the first warm weather, and of crepe georgette there seems to be no end; so we are not threatened with a blouse famine.

And never have the sheer and dainty waists been lovelier than they are this season. The very heavily embroidered blouse went its way long ago, and for several years the summer blouses of the finer sort have relied upon exquisite simplicity rather than upon lavish ornamentation for their smartness. The simplicity may be of an expensive sort, obtained through hand work and fine materials, but it has a charm which the more showy elaboration never knew, and this year there are many picturesquely effective features in both the imported and the domestic models.

Collars, for example, offer unending variety, and though the ordinary blouses cling rather closely to three or four practical and popular collar forms, the better, more exclusive models in sheer stuffs make much of their collars. Most of these leave the throat free in front and many of them roll away a little from the sides of the throat as well. French blouses still show many high collared models and occasionally a domestic blouse follows suit; but on the whole, the low collared blouse is the thing, and women affect the high collar chiefly in tailored blouses, if at all.

A collar of the sort illustrated in two of our sketches appears upon some of the most delightful import models in the organic batiste, georgette and similar materials, and though not universally becoming, is often delightfully picturesque. On a close fitting collar band more or less high is set a deep falling collar of lace or embroidered material or perhaps a deep plaited frill producing much the same effect as the plain collar so far as line is concerned. The collar material must, of course, be fine and soft enough to adjust itself to the shoulder slope when it meets it and flares out almost to shoulder cape dimensions.

An adorably pretty little French blouse of flesh color georgette had a collar of this kind in lovely yellowed lace and was trimmed otherwise only by tiny hand tucks and corded shirings and such stitchery, yet had an air of elegance for all its measured simplicity. Cape collars of many sizes

and shapes appear also on the sheer blouses.

A very successful model in sheerest white handkerchief linen has a very deep flat shoulder cape made of alternating rows of narrow valenciennes lace and equally narrow puffings in the linen. This collar opened low in front but ran up slightly against the neck in the back. There were deep cuffs to match the collar.

Other cape collar blouses have triple capes of white organdy bound very narrowly in color. The blouse may be of plain delicate color; or possibly it is finely striped or sprinkled in color or of white with only a slight trimming of color. Sometimes the triple cape has its edge cut in large shallow scallops, and similar scallops are used on the cuffs.

Narrow, picot edged frills of the blouse material are the only trimmings of some extremely dainty blouses in georgette of delicate colors or white, with, of course, little hand run tucks and perhaps open stitchery in the making. One peculiarly likable model in pale rose petal pink georgette had its softly rolling collar, cuffs and front trimmed in four or five very narrow frills of finest, deep creamy net doubled, and many of the prettiest white lingerie blouses are trimmed in narrow frills edged narrowly in color.

Plain, fine handkerchief linen in soft pink, with collars and cuffs of sheer white edged in the blouse material are exceedingly popular, and though there are similar models in blue, to pale yellow and in lavender, pink seems to be distinctly the blouse color this season, always excepting white. Fresh pink comes first in popularity, rivaling white in all the georgette and silk models. It is liked also in batiste and organdy and linen and is kinder to many complexions than white.

Pinks a little deeper than flesh, both in the yellowish and the pure pink tones are legion and there are deeper rose shades, relieved by collars of white or cream and by touches of black ribbon that are exceptionally good looking. The beige shades and kindred colorings are liked for the georgette blouses, but are not becoming as a rule.

Gray blouses are in every collection because of the favor accorded to the soft shades of gray throughout the whole province of fashion; and there are delectable creamy gray models in georgette relieved by collars and cuffs of exquisite yellowish batiste or finely embroidered and having the appearance of antique needlework pieces, though the age is simulated rather than real. This old yellow tone rhymes particularly well with the light grass and net linen frills, and puffings in the same yellowed color are when cleverly applied, as successful as the embroidered batiste or linen.

All net blouses are not so numerous as they were, but there are still some lovely models in this material, with or without lace trimmings, the best looking, relying upon fine tucking, corded shirring and such handwork rather than upon lace for their effect. Two things one is sure to notice in examining any group of French waists. One is the increasing number of peplum models. The other is the reap-



A net blouse with lace and ribbon and two handkerchief linen blouses, one white with pink edged frills, one with white collar and cuffs.

Lingerie Waists Come Into Favor With the Warm Weather and Avert Threatened Famine of Materials

pearance of the blouse buttoning in the back or slipping over the head instead of opening all the way down the front. The French designers have given considerable attention to these features and American designers have followed suit, though these models are still exceptions and will doubtless remain exceptions.

The peplum model is designed for wear over the skirt instead of under; but may in almost every instance be worn under the skirt if its possessor likes it better that way. The difficulty with this type of waist in its sheer and dainty form is that the average frock skirt or separate skirt is still made with a raised waist line and the sheer, low belted blouse looks all wrong over such a skirt top.

With a skirt that ends at the normal waist line such a blouse is often very attractive and there are many clever features about the narrow belts or waist line finishings. Often narrow ribbon is merely run through corded shirring and knotted in front. A narrow waistband above a full short peplum frill may have eyelets worked in it and a narrow ribbon run through the eyelets. When this waistband is in color on a blouse trimmed elsewhere with the same color and the ribbon is black to match a cravat ribbon the effect is good.

Longer peplums in blouses of georgette or chiffon are often headed lightly, the heading being used also for neck and sleeve finish and perhaps elsewhere on the blouse. Some of these long peplum blouses are in point of fact first cousins to our old familiar friend the Russian blouse, and certain models strike the barbaric note in their heading, particularly where the blouse is of black or dark blue georgette or chiffon cloth. The heading is most often done simply in straight lines or mere traceries, but several vivid colors may be combined in the heading.

More delicate effects in head embroidery are introduced in lines and traceries of tiny crystal beads upon flesh color and in silver or steel upon gray, dark blue or black. There are, too, quaint little solidly beaded flower sprigs or nosegays or flowers posed simply upon blouses of chiffon or georgette.

Of embroidery in silks upon silken stuffs there is but little preference being given to the heads of metallic embroidery of a spidery, delicate sort. A little silk embroidery, usually in the color of the blouse material, is, however, often worked in with the gold or silver threads, as was the case in the ribbon trimmed peplum blouse that figures among our sketches.

This French chiffon model is proclaimed by its neck line a copy of a Chien or a Broquet, or perhaps it only echoes the ideas of those houses. At any rate it succeeds in being chic, as do many of the blouses with this trying straight line at the neck.

Chien sent over a very fine lingerie model in flesh color, embroidered in self color, that had the straight neck line with a narrow little embroidered collar standing up across this line at back and front and open on the shoulders. It had the peplum, too, below a

little group of corded shirring at the waist line.

These blouses with the wide neck opening often open on the shoulder and are put on over the head. Then there are other models that open a little way down the front, enough to allow the blouse to be slipped on over the head, but do not open all the way from top to bottom either in front or back. And there are still more that do button frankly down the back but are cut down far enough in front to allow a becoming low collar effect.

The rolling collar in one form or another with pointed front opening is upon a vast majority of the blouses. Among the tailors' models it is frequently cut so that it may be worn high or low and the striped and colored models in silk, linen, etc., may have collars of white.

Many little waists of white handkerchief linen have collars of striped linen and some good tailored models in white handkerchief linen are collared and cuffed smartly with white. The narrow plaited or fluted frill of fine white linen is much liked for trimming striped or colored linen models.

Sleeves have been almost uniformly long; but the vogue of the short dress sleeve which is increasing will doubtless affect the summer blouse and already models are appearing with sleeves of elbow length and shorter. It is to be hoped the new idea will be confined to the more picturesque type of blouse and that as shall be spared the short sleeved tailored waist, save for country wear. The smock idea persists and even given rise to numerous other loose blouse models that are related to smock blouse, smock and Norfolk and even all the family characteristics in various combinations. One designer has turned out a very loose belted Norfolk blouse in an extremely loose woven linen of natural linen tone, a string collar with collar, cuffs, buttons and wide, loose, smartly buttoned belt in color—rose, blue, yellow, leather brown, green, etc.

Loosely fitting jerseys, either of wool, cut down at the neck so that they can be slipped on over the head and finished with button and bow, much like those of the regulation military blouse, are other examples of comfortable, overall blouse for sport and work wear; but all of these models are, like the middy, very youthful in air.

For sports wear and general tailored wear the plain blouse of white or Japanese silk or crepe de chine is good quality is perhaps the most satisfactory thing, if one can succeed in having it laundered so expertly that it will not turn yellow. Striped silks are also liked and the tailored linen in white or color are in some ways more satisfactory than silk. Since linens in desirable qualities and colorings are scarcer than usual this season, the makers of plain and practical tailored waists are making up more models than usual and doing a good deal with dainty too. While these blouses are shown everywhere, but are not so well liked as they were a few seasons ago, georgette, organdy, batiste and linen all being considered much more chic than voile.

VARIED ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN

WHEN some time ago the Greek steamer *Arcturion* was captured by an Austrian submarine and certain important English documents carried by Capt. A. Stanley Wilson were in danger of being found by the Austrians, who searched the vessel, it was an American woman, Mrs. Charlotte Herbine, who saved them.

"Give the papers to me," she whispered to Capt. Wilson. "They won't suspect me of having anything, and if you will trust me I will deliver them safely."

Later when Mrs. Herbine had landed in England and turned the documents over to the proper authorities she became possessed with the longing to do something to lessen the suffering she saw. She decided to establish a hospital, and she resolved to maintain it with American money and that only. She came to America, she begged for

her hospital and she got enough money to open one. Then back to London, where the baronet who owns the house at 5 Grosvenor Square agreed to let her have it, rent free, for her undertaking.

That was months ago, and ever since the Countess Military Hospital as it is called, has been a haven where badly wounded men are brought to be operated upon and cared for. There are 100 beds and all are occupied all the time. Mrs. Herbine formed a society, of which the Earl of Sandwich is president. Sir Alfred Keogh accepted the hospital for the British War Office.

When Mrs. Herbine comes to New York to rouse interest in her hospital she always goes to Miss Emma Thursby, the singer, who with the aid of her pupils is working constantly to aid the various projects for the relief of the war sufferers. Miss Thursby has just received a letter from Mrs. Herbine telling of the need in her hospital for shoes, beds, linen, flannels, clothes, supplies—everything a sick man or a convalescent needs.

The differences between the National Woman Suffrage Association, supposed to be the non-militant branch of the movement, and the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, composed of militants, have frequently reached rather an acute stage, but never till

now did they threaten to become acrimonious. They are hopelessly divided as to the question of hats.

The union has just given out what kind of hat is to be worn by the suffragists who are to go to Chicago during the Republican convention to form a woman's party to boom the Susan B. Anthony amendment. The hat is white, and fluffy—a frivolous convention of creation of tulle, etc. It is to cost \$5 and will be manufactured by the Union. But the headgear which the National directs its followers to wear when they parade in the convention city on June 7 is not fluffy. It is a severe sailor with a stiff brim and comes at a price that the poorest suff could afford.

Rumblings of dissension have come frequently from the West, where both sides are touring to gain converts. It is said that when the C. U. suffrage special pulled into a town ahead of the National workers the latter are apt to find the leading citizens absent or very cold when they arrive, and vice versa. But the flash about the millinery is the first indication of a hopelessly split.

When will women learn that some things had better be left for the men to cope with? It is all very well to say that woman's sphere ought to be as wide as man's, but in practice there is one thing that should be put outside

the line that marks the place where woman should stop striving. That thing is a mule.

—The Ruppelrecht of Milltown, N. J., will say yes to that as soon as her jaw is in working order. It isn't now, because of the mule. Miss Ruppelrecht thought woman's sphere included the mule, and tried to ride white and fluffy—a frivolous convention of creation of tulle, etc. It is to cost \$5 and will be manufactured by the Union. But the headgear which the National directs its followers to wear when they parade in the convention city on June 7 is not fluffy. It is a severe sailor with a stiff brim and comes at a price that the poorest suff could afford.

Mrs. Harriot Stanton Blatch, who is circulating in the West as one of the attractions of the Suffrage Special sent out by the Congressional Union, has started out to boom Reno. She is projecting a boom that will make the divorce industry that first brought Reno into prominence look as mild as a church fair.

Suffragists, hundreds of suffragists, deprived by the States of which they are residents of the right to vote, are, according to Mrs. Blatch's plan, to foregather in Reno, there to live until they qualify as voters. There is a cartoon in the *Seattle Star*, in an edition edited for the benefit of the cause by Mrs. Blatch, showing crowds of

suffs with their valises hastening to the Nevada city. In a glowing article the delights of life in Reno are set forth, and full directions given for the benefit of those who wish to go West to vote.

The *Woman Voter*, organ of the New York City Woman Suffrage Party, is offering prizes for the best anti-suffrage pearls of rhetoric. So far the one adjudged the pearl of the finest water is Senator Elton R. Brown's little excursion into eucrasia, made in the course of his speech when the votes for women amendment came up at Albany.

"Woman peoples the earth with men, the heavens with stars and the sea with living things. I recognize her as great and noble in the sphere which is hers by nature and the consent of man."

A close competitor with this is Francis M. Scott's statement: "I vote, not because I am intelligent, not because I am moral, but simply and solely because I am a man."

The committee can't quite decide whether the fact that Mr. Scott has an anti-suffrage wife, while Senator Brown is surrounded by suffrage relatives, maintaining his attitude despite a wife, two daughters and sisters who want the vote, ought to make any difference in arriving at a choice between the two pearls. Meantime other

pearls are welcome, and a prize will be given each month, not to the author, but to the person who uncovers and sends the best pearl to the *Woman Voter*, 48 East Thirty-fourth street.

The girls of the Julia Richmond High School need a new building and have started a campaign to get it. Floods of letters are going out from the girls themselves to newspapers, to members of the Board of Education, to other city officials and various persons of influence, asking them to take note that in this big rich city many hundreds of young girls are studying in an antiquated building with dark, stuffy rooms, amid noisy streets, with no gymnasium, no auditorium where the pupils can gather, no lunchroom, and in a part of the city which obliges most of the pupils to spend at least \$29 a year enroute going back and forth from home.

"We don't ask anything grand, no tiled floors and fireplaces and things like that," one of the girl campaigners, Belle Siegel, said yesterday in a letter she sent to an official. "But this building where we study, at 60 West Thirtieth street, is so old and musty."

"We don't ask New York to spend much money, but there is a school building up upon the West Side, near the homes of most of our pupils, a building that would enable us to

have a nice auditorium, a lunchroom where we could eat in a mannerly fashion, light classrooms and other conveniences; and it is available for our use. Can't this matter be arranged?"

The Julia Richmond High School has five branches, now housed in five different places, and of course the ideal of its friends is to get one big home where all the branches can be gathered, like the building the Washington Irving girls wanted so long, and got at last.

A woman died not long ago who wasn't rich—by the side of a millionaire, she would be considered a pauper, for her fortune was \$300, no more. And that \$300 she had gathered slowly and laboriously, saving cent by cent almost from her wages through long years of domestic service. But she knew how to dedicate her fortune, such as it was, to a purpose. She left it to benefit her race—the negro race.

The woman was Mary Strater, who died last January in her eighty-sixth year. She was the child of slaves, American negroes who lived in New Jersey when New Jersey was a slave State. When she was a little girl 12 years old she went to work in the family of the late Charles F. Whitin, in Whitinsville, Mass., and lived as their servant and a member of the family for seventy-seven years, until her death.

A pretty good title for distinction, that alone—keeping one place for sev-

enty-seven years! But as it isn't as big as the fortune of a millionaire, she wasn't rich enough to be considered a pauper, for her fortune was \$300, no more. And that \$300 she had gathered slowly and laboriously, saving cent by cent almost from her wages through long years of domestic service. But she knew how to dedicate her fortune, such as it was, to a purpose. She left it to benefit her race—the negro race.

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TODAY'S AID TO BEAUTY

An especially fine shampoo for this weather, one that dissolves and entirely removes all dandruff, excess oil and dirt, can easily be made at trifling expense by simply dissolving a teaspoonful of canthrox in a cup of hot water. Pour slowly on scalp and massage briskly. This creates a soothing, cooling lather. Rinsing leaves the scalp spotlessly clean, soft and pliant, while the hair takes on the glossy richness of natural color, also a fluffiness which makes it seem much heavier than it is. After a canthrox shampoo arranging the hair is a pleasure.—Adv.



A white silk shirt with Roman stripe, a pink chiffon blouse with a lace collar, a blouse of handkerchief linen and lace and one of embroidered crepe.